

APR 4 1952

WASHINGTON REPORT

Legion's Anti-Communist Fight Hurts
Movie Producers Who Love Reds

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Eric Johnston, who vacillates between doing chores for the Truman administration and being boss of the Motion Picture Association of America, is taking Hollywood underground in its fight against Communists — if any.



LEWIS

Johnston, a few days ago, rallied a number of Hollywood movie moguls into a secret powwow for the purpose of putting the heat on the American Legion's national commander, Donald Wilson, who has encouraged the Legion's anti-Communist fight. That fight now includes the picketing of a Washington motion picture house for presenting a Hollywood opus loaded with left-wingers and worse. This is the Legion's first effort to picket a theater and it has Johnston and his bosses gnawing on their fingernails.

One other reason for Johnston momentarily abandoning the fair deal for the job he gets paid for, is that some movie producers are getting slightly daft over the intensity of Howard Hughes' anti-Communist fight.

Hughes, boss of the huge RKO studio, is beginning to clip Communists off the payroll at an alarming rate. Right now an ex-employee of RKO, Paul Jarrico, is suing Hughes because he refused to allow Jarrico's name to appear on a film after Jarrico refused to answer the \$64 question about his alleged Communist affiliations in testimony before congressional investigators.

Hughes has taken the FBI and other government agencies and congressional committees at their word. He thinks Communists and Moscow stooges who have done everything except actually join the party, are dangerous to the nation's security. He has vowed to bounce them when he finds them in his shop, which is more than most of the other studios have done. In fact, it is almost unprecedented. Several of the notorious Hollywood ten were fired, but in name only. Actually, they were allowed to go on writing movie scripts, in some cases, by using the simple subterfuge of another name.

The Legion commander didn't knuckle under. In fact, the Legion is considering an expansion of its picketing activities, since this hits the producers who love the Reds and their playmates

right where it hurts—in the pocketbook.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT has borrowed one of Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan's deep freezes to store a hot potato tossed to it by the McCarran internal security subcommittee. It involves John P. Davies, who does Secretary of State Dean Acheson's thinking on Far Eastern affairs. Davies was recently cleared of security charges by the State department after being suspended along with Far Eastern Expert O. Edmund Clubb. Clubb quit after Acheson said he was clean as a whistle, but this was only half of the story. Acheson didn't mention that the State department's loyalty board had found Clubb a security risk, and that Acheson brought back a retired diplomat for the specific purpose of overruling that decision.

Davies, testifying before the McCarran subcommittee, denies that he ever wanted to get a string of Communists' jobs in the Central Intelligence agency. A former employee of the C.I.A. Lyle Munson, a New York City publisher, testified otherwise. It is a pat example of lying by somebody before a congressional committee. So McCarran shipped the record to Justice, to see which one was playing fast and loose with the truth. That was several weeks ago. Munson would like to drop in on a grand jury and tell his story, but the Justice department, when asked about the case, hasn't done a thing except act embarrassed.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT now has four employees under investigation as loyalty suspects. The strange thing about it is that if the loyalty board should find against the four, it will make a total of 57 "turned up" as Communist sympathizers since Senator Joseph R. McCarthy first started his attack on the department. You'll recall that the senator said there were 57 questionable characters in the State department.

Recent executive session testimony before a Senate subcommittee revealed the facts concerning the 57. Conrad Snow, head of Acheson's loyalty board, had to make a number of embarrassing confessions on behalf of the secretary of state. It hurt. The loyalty review board says the Department of State has never fired anyone for disloyalty. Snow says the 57 were "turned up." When the secret testimony is made public, I think you'll find he means "turned out." Thus, Snow and the State department will come clean with us and the loyalty review board. About time, huh?

(N.Y.) GAZETTE

Circ.: e. 31,033

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